

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 401

By Haynes

A RESOLUTION to honor Mr. Jack Vaughn on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this legislative body should recognize those citizens who in their years of work have performed with extraordinary dedication and unprecedented devotion; and

WHEREAS, Jack Vaughn is one such outstanding community servant, who often exceeds the call of duty to ensure that his community is well served; and

WHEREAS, after 40 years of astute and commendable service in the hospitality industry, Jack Vaughn is retiring from the important position of Chairman of the Opryland Lodging Group; and

WHEREAS, Jack Vaughn began his illustrious career in the hospitality and attractions industry in 1959, when he started working for Westin Hotels at the Hotel Benson in Portland, Oregon; and

WHEREAS, during his distinguished tenure with Westin Hotels, Mr. Vaughn astutely served as General Manager of the Continental Plaza Hotel in Chicago and the Century Plaza Hotel in Los Angeles; and

WHEREAS, in 1975, Jack Vaughn brought his extraordinary talent and skills to Gaylord Entertainment, as the Opryland and Convention Center's General Manager, even though construction had not begun on the first 600-room phase of the property; and

WHEREAS, Opryland Hotel has experienced tremendous growth and prosperity since Mr. Vaughn first accepted the role of its first General Manager to oversee the construction of what is now the largest combined hotel and convention center in the world; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Vaughn has cited the completion of the additions to Opryland Hotel as the greatest accomplishment of his distinguished career; and

WHEREAS, Jack Vaughn has been an outspoken industry advocate for incorporating convention space inside of hotels, and as a result of his outstanding leadership, he was named to the Convention Liaison Council's Hall of Leaders in 1988; and

WHEREAS, since moving to Nashville to guide Opryland Hotel, Jack Vaughn has served in numerous estimable positions with Gaylord Entertainment and its predecessor companies, including Vice-President of WSM, Inc.; Senior Vice-President of Opryland, USA, Inc.; Vice-President of Gaylord Entertainment Company; President of Opryland Hospitality and Attractions Group; and most recently, Chairman of the Opryland Lodging Group; and

WHEREAS, as President of the Opryland Hospitality and Attractions Group, Mr. Vaughn directed one of the major components of Gaylord Entertainment Company, which includes the Opryland Hotel; the Opryland Theme Park; Opryland International Travel; the General Jackson Showboat; the Opryland River Taxis, the Music City Queen; Grand Ole Opry Tours; the Springhouse Golf Club; KOA Campgrounds; and the Wildhorse Saloon; and

WHEREAS, in his most recent challenge, Mr. Vaughn has capitalized on the reputation and experience of the Opryland Hotel by establishing other Opryland Hotel properties in markets across the United States; and

WHEREAS, Jack Vaughn has also held numerous prominent state and national positions throughout his highly esteemed career, including membership on the Congressional Travel & Tourism Caucus Advisory Council, and meritorious service as director of the American

Hotel & Motel Association Educational Institute (AH&MA), President and Chairman of the Tennessee Hotel & Motel Association, member of the Board of Directors and Vice-President of the Southern Innkeepers Association, and Honorary Trustee for Life of the American Hotel Foundation; he was one of the first one hundred people in the nation appointed as a delegate to the 1995 White House Conference on Travel and Tourism; and

WHEREAS, despite his busy schedule, Mr. Vaughn gives generously of his time to better his community; he has actively participated in many civic organizations, including astute service as President of the Middle Tennessee Boy Scouts of America; an executive committee member of the Nashville Rotary Club; Chairman of the Metropolitan Convention Center Commission; and as a member of countless other civic organizations; and

WHEREAS, Jack Vaughn has been deservedly recognized for his meritorious efforts and peerless skills by his profession and his community; and

WHEREAS, he received the International Exhibitors Association Distinguished Service Award in 1986 and the AH&MA Lawson A. Odde Award in 1989; he was named Hotels Magazine's "Independent Hotelier of the World" in 1990 and received the Educational Institute's Arthur Landstreet Award in 1994; he also received the Resort Executive of the Year Award and the American Heart Association's Heart of the Community Award; and

WHEREAS, his many accolades and accomplishments aside, Jack Vaughn is most appreciative of the love and support he receives from his wife of seventeen years, Ellie, and the loyal support of their five children: John; Debbie, Curt; Chris and Connie; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Jack Vaughn exemplifies the spirit and dedication that is characteristic of a great Tennessean; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we extend to Mr. Jack Vaughn our best wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we extend to Mr. Vaughn our most sincere thanks for his meritorious service to the greater Nashville community and salute his distinguished career with the Gaylord Entertainment Company and the Opryland Hotel.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.